

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR

SUBJ: CIVAIR ATTACHE CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 117994

1. WE WERE DISAPPOINTED TO NOTE FROM REFTEL THAT NEW DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF AVIATION, MIKE STYLES IS NOT SCHEDULED TO ATTEND PARIS AIR SHOW AND RCAA CONFERENCE. WE HAD HOPED THAT AFTER CONFERENCE STYLES WOULD VISIT LONDON AND USE OCCASION TO MEET WITH KEY BRITISH AVIATION OFFICIALS AT A TIME WHEN WE DO NOT HAVE IMMEDIATE AND CRITICAL BILATERAL PROBLEMS TO THRASH OUT. OUR AVIATION RELATIONS WITH BRITISH ARE SO IMPORTANT (NOT ONLY IN BILATERAL SENSE BUT ALSO AS PATTERN FOR RELATIONS WITH OTHER EUROPEAN STATES) AND RECENTLY HAVE BEEN SO UNSETTLED THAT WE BELIEVE CONTACTS STYLES WOULD THUS MAKE IN NON-NEGOTIATING ENVIRONMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS THUS ESTABLISHED WILL BE INVALUABLE WHEN NEXT ROUND OF BILATERAL PROBLEMS MUST BE DEALT WITH IN FORMAL MEETINGS OF US/UK OFFICIALS IN LONDON OR WASHINGTON.

2. IN A WIDER SENSE, WE BELIEVE STYLES ATTENDANCE AT PARIS EVENT HIGHLY DESIRABLE ALSO. PARIS AIR SHOW IS LARGEST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL AIR SHOW HELD ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. IT BRINGS TO PARIS THE LEADING AVIATION OFFICIALS FROM EVERY MAJOR COUNTRY AND THE TOP REPRESENTA-

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TIVES OF THE FOREMOST U.S. AEROSPACE MANUFACTURERS. THIS

EVENT, THEREFORE, AFFORDS AN OPPORTUNITY WHICH COMES ONLY EVERY OTHER YEAR FOR THE DEPT OF STATE TO MAKE THE SORT OF CONTACTS WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO FULFILLMENT OF ITS ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL AVIATION AND TO DEMONSTRATE TO OUR INDUSTRY AND TO OTHERS THE IMPORTANCE DEPT ATTACHES AND SUPPORT IT IS PREPARED TO GIVE TO U.S. AVIATION INTERESTS

3. RCAA CONFERENCE IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT. BY OUR COUNT, ABOUT 22 FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS WILL BE REPRESENTED AT MEETING, REFLECTING IMPORTANCE THESE POSTS ATTACH TO AVIATION ISSUES. THIS CONFERENCE COMES AT A PARTICULARLY CRITICAL TIME (A) BECAUSE EUROPEAN AEROSPACE INTERESTS ARE AT A CROSSROADS IN DECIDING THEIR RESPONSE TO THE U.S. AEROSPACE CHALLENGE AND (B) BECAUSE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS FLAG CARRIERS ARE EXPERIENCING ON NORTH ATLANTIC ARE ENGENDERING INCREASING BILATERAL AVIATION PROBLEMS. DISCUSSIONS DURING CONFERENCE AND INFORMALLY OUTSIDE CONFERENCE WILL PROVIDE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR TWO-WAY EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND THE FIELD IN THESE AS WELL AS IN OTHER CRITICAL AREAS.

4. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, UNLESS STYLES HAS BINDING COMMITMENTS ELSEWHERE, WE STRONGLY URGE THAT POSSIBILITY OF HIS ATTENDANCE AT PARIS EVENTS FOLLOWED BY VISIT TO LONDON FOR MEETINGS WITH U.K. OFFICIALS BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

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